

PGE Renewable Development Fund

2022 Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in the PGE Renewable Development Fund (RDF), which provides financial support for local renewable energy projects. The RDF is made possible by a community of more than 235,000 Green FutureSM customers, the largest renewable program in the country. RDF funds come from a portion of the payments that Green Future customers voluntarily pay in addition to their standard PGE electricity bill.

Please review the eligibility guidelines, project requirements, and evaluation criteria below. Applications will be reviewed by a third-party evaluator, selected by a committee of PGE representatives, and recommended to the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) based on these considerations and subject to availability of funds.

Funding Eligibility

Selected projects will request funds in one (or more) of three categories:

1. To provide part of the costs of new “steel in the ground” renewable energy projects that are either directly interconnected to PGE’s grid or delivered to PGE pursuant to a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).
2. A research and development project that facilitates renewable energy market transformation or the emergence of new renewable technologies.
3. Educational components directly associated with an RDF funded renewable project.

Eligible renewable project types include:

- Wind
- Geothermal
- Solar photovoltaic
- Low-impact hydroelectric
- Pipeline or irrigation canal hydroelectric
- Wave energy
- Tidal energy
- Low-emission biogas



Ineligible for Funding

Energy project types not eligible for funding include:

- Passive solar or solar thermal systems
- Geothermal heat-pump systems
- Geothermal or biomass heat generation systems
- Single-family residential projects
- Off-grid projects
- Energy storage

Structural or site improvements required prior to project construction are not eligible for funding include but aren't limited to:

- Canopies
- Roofing
- Tree removal
- Lighting
- Flooring
- Structural reinforcement

Activities not directly associated with the capital costs of new renewable energy systems are not eligible for funding include but aren't limited to:

- Landscaping costs
- Construction Bond costs
- Facility maintenance or repair costs
- Interest
- Extended warranty charges
- Donated, in-kind, or volunteer materials or labor
- Marketing, administrative, or other non-technical costs

Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be evaluated and scored in the following key areas:

1. Community Impact - does the project benefit historically underserved communities?
2. Thoroughness of project design.
3. Feasibility of project budget and timeline.
4. Qualifications of project team.
5. Project complexity and technical feasibility.
6. Project "readiness" - project is well-developed with a known size, impact, timeline and budget.



Project Requirements

Projects must meet the following criteria (where applicable):

1. Project must be either directly interconnected to PGE's grid or delivered to PGE pursuant to a PPA. Direct Access customers are included in this eligibility.
2. Project must be a new installation with new equipment and materials.
3. If the 1.5% for Green Energy Technology requirement is applicable, the RDF will only fund a project beyond the amount required by the 1.5% multiplier.
4. Project completion (defined as delivering power) within 18 months of award agreement execution. Extensions may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
5. Residential scale projects are ineligible (defined as less than 10kW). Projects must have a total capacity of less than 10MW.
6. If any recommended project receives over \$400,000 in RDF funds, the full application will be reviewed and approved by the OPUC before any funds are assigned (minimum 6-week review time). Additionally, all for-profit projects will go through this same process regardless of award amount. Recommended projects are included on the next available Regular Agenda at a public OPUC meeting.
7. For projects receiving less than \$400,000 in RDF funds, a list of recommended projects with summaries is sent to OPUC Staff for review. Upon initial approval, recommended projects are included in the next available Consent Agenda.
8. Projects must be equipped with production monitoring equipment to collect and report facility output with data made available to PGE for a period no less than ten years.
9. All solar PV projects must have an Energy Trust-certified Trade Ally as their solar contractor and receive a cover letter through the Solar Development Assistance (SDA) incentive pathway prior to applying to the RDF. The reservation information will be required as an appendix for the RDF application form.
10. Project must self-fund at least 15 percent of the total eligible project budget.
11. Projects must follow interconnection guidelines as required by PGE, the OPUC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), or any other relevant regulatory agencies.
12. Community Solar Projects must be less than or equal to 360kW and/or managed by a non-profit Project Manager as designated by the Oregon Community Solar Program.
13. Additional Education funding requests, as part of the specific Project Budget in the Application, are limited to no more than 5% of the total requested funds. For example, a project requesting \$100,000 in RDF funding could receive a maximum of 5% of the \$100,000 request. In this case, \$5,000 toward education specific aspects.
14. PGE will present an informational update on projects at regularly scheduled Portfolio Option Committee meetings and OPUC meetings.



Project Preferences

Projects meeting the following criteria may be given priority:

1. Site is located within PGE service territory. Alternatively, a project can be nominated or sponsored by a PGE customer or community in PGE's service territory.
2. Site and/or system is owned by a PGE customer.
3. If customer-sited, host customer is either a public or non-profit entity or is proposing a project in a meaningful partnership with a public or non-profit entity. Culturally specific organizations are explicitly encouraged to apply.
4. Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from project are not sold to third parties.
5. Projects benefiting environmental justice communities as defined in [House Bill 2475](#). Of specific interest are projects designed around Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. At least 35% of all RDF award dollars are expected to go to projects supporting these communities.
6. Constructed with local materials or labor from PGE's service territory, the state of Oregon or the Pacific Northwest region.
7. Provide a substantial benefit to the community in the form of educational engagement and public visibility. Additional funding, capped at 5% of total requested funds, is available for these efforts. Eligible options include but are not limited to: events, trainings, curriculum development, presentations, tours, and educational material.
8. Provide significant, direct environmental and economic benefits to local communities and PGE customers.
9. Applicant has demonstrated efforts to obtain all other available funding sources, incentives, federal grants, and tax credits.
10. Projects that have pledged their own funds, secured in-kind donations, or shown a willingness to engage in creative fund-raising efforts which contribute to the overall appeal of the project.
11. Projects in which the entirety of overhead, administrative, or project management costs are borne by the project owner.
12. Applicant currently participates in a Green-e® Energy certified renewable power program.
13. Project offers additional benefits in the form of energy efficiency considerations, electric vehicle charging stations, energy storage, other renewable energy initiatives or environmental conservation. Please note that these additional efforts are ineligible for RDF funding but projects including these measures may be given priority.
14. Project offers cost sharing beyond the 15 percent requirement of total eligible costs.
15. Diversity of project characteristics including but not limited to: project type, project geography, project size, and communities impacted.
16. Projects that promote "additionality" - additional renewable resources that would not be possible without RDF funding.





Funding Parameters

No single applicant or project will be eligible to receive more than 33% of the total fund balance at the outset of each funding cycle. This is in addition to the requirement that all projects self fund at least 15 percent of total eligible costs. Available funding will be made known at outset of each year/application round. Available funding for the 2022 process is \$3 million as of March 1st.

1. All applicants are expected to secure all other forms of available funding, including grants, incentives, and state/federal tax credits.
2. PGE's expectation is to provide enough funding such that a project is economically feasible.
3. The Renewable Development Fund is intended to pay down the above market costs of renewable energy projects.
4. Applicants are encouraged to submit their "best offer" needed to make the project happen and not include extraneous costs.
5. Based on evaluation, application details, and other eligible projects, funding may differ from the amount requested.
6. PGE will allocate funding based upon qualified applications with no guaranteed total amount to be released in any given round.
7. PGE will not provide development assistance or assistance in obtaining co-funding.



Additional Resources

[Department of Energy's Solar Energy Resource Center](#) - Provides numerous tools, templates, and guides to help communities accelerate adoption of solar energy.

[Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy](#) - A comprehensive, user-friendly and free source of information on state, local, and selected federal incentives that promote renewable energy.

[Clean Energy Bright Futures](#) - A program of Bonneville Environmental Foundation, provides a teacher learning center, classroom activities, live solar energy data, and hands-on science kits for educators.

[KidWind](#) - Works with schools to provide renewable energy content that culminates with local, regional and national challenges for student teams.

[PGE Renewable Development Fund](#) - Program page for the Renewable Development Fund.

[PGE Install Solar, Wind & More](#) - Page provides information regarding generating your own power, net metering, and interconnection requirements.

[USDA Renewable Energy Grants for Rural Communities](#) - Information regarding the eligibility requirements and applying for project funding through the USDA's Rural Energy for America program.

[Renewable Energy RFPs](#) - The US Department of Energy lists solicitations and a variety of information for green power markets.

[Energy Trust of Oregon](#) - Connections to Trade Allies in Oregon and more information on other energy-related efforts. For a solar contractor, use the [Request Custom Analysis + Bid Form](#).

